

Monroe Lake

February Schedule

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**Volunteer! Adopt-a-Shoreline,
Citizen Scientist, Program
Assistant, Hands-on Workdays**
lakemonroe.yolasite.com

Please arrive on time for scheduled programs!

Programs listed here are designed for families/individuals.

Schools, scouts, and other organized groups should contact the Interpretive Naturalist for info on scheduling a private program. Private programs are available at all Monroe Lake SRAs and offsite locations in Monroe, Brown, Jackson, and Lawrence Counties.

Paynetown Activity Center

*Located next to Swimming Beach
inside Paynetown SRA: 812-837-9967*

Drop-in activity tables, lake information,
kids' play area, live snakes, beetle colony,
library, naturalist's office

***Open during the winter months
by chance or appointment.***

**Jill Vance, C.I.G., Interpretive
Naturalist, jvance@dnr.IN.gov**

Monroe Lake Office:
812-837-9546

**Paynetown Campground
Reservations:** 866-622-6746,
www.CAMP.IN.gov

**Four Winds Resort & Marina
(Fairfax):** 812-824-28

**Lake Monroe Boat Rental
(Paynetown):** 812-837-9909

**Lake Monroe Marina
(Cutright):** 812-837-9394

Program locations are at Paynetown SRA, unless otherwise noted.

Allens Creek Fossil Beds Hike Saturday, February 1 at 1:00p



Registration REQUIRED by January 28; limited to 20 people. To register, email Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov with your name, phone number, and the number of people in your group (or call the Paynetown Activity Center at 812-837-9967).

Program Location: Meet in the upper parking lot at Allens Creek SRA (directions available)

The limestone shoreline around the point at Allen's Creek is so dense with fossils that it's hard to find "plain" rock! The fossil beds are filled with crinoids, brachiopods, and bryozoans – remnants of the shallow sea that once covered Indiana. On our hike to and from the fossil beds, we'll explore the broader geological story told by the rock layers exposed in the Monroe Lake area. *Round-trip hike distance is about 4 miles over moderate terrain and takes roughly 3 hours. Recommended for ages 16 and up.*

World Wetlands Day Celebration

Sunday, February 2

Stillwater Marsh Levee Hike at 10:00a

Registration REQUIRED by January 31; limited to 20

people. To register, email Jill Vance at

jvance@dnr.IN.gov with your name, phone number, and the number of people in your group (or call the Paynetown Activity Center at 812-837-9967).

Program Location: Meet at the North Fork Check Station (east of Bloomington); directions provided when you register.

The Stillwater-North Fork Waterfowl Resting Area is Monroe Lake's key wildlife management area. From mid-Autumn through early Spring, a seasonal wetland provides important habitat for migrating and resident waterfowl. The marsh is only part of the story, though. On this hike, we'll follow the levee wall around Stillwater Marsh and discuss how Monroe Lake manages the area to support a wide variety of wildlife. If luck favors us, we may also see ducks, geese, eagles, and other wildlife (if you have binoculars, please bring them!). **90 minutes**

Waterfowl Resting Areas at Monroe Lake are generally closed to the public from October 1 through April 15, so this hike offers a unique opportunity to view the habitat during the winter season. It will be an easy hike over flat terrain, with a total distance of around 1.75 miles.

Create a Wetland World from 1p to 4:30p

Program Location: Paynetown SRA, Activity Center (next to Beach)

Kids can drop by to color and assemble a collection of 3-D paper animals for their own wetland play set. Allow about 30 minutes of work time to make a basic set (4 animals), or up to 75 minutes of work time to make a full set (10 animals). **Recommended for ages 6 to 12 (younger kids will need lots of adult assistance).**

Wetlands on the Screen from 1p to 5p

Program Location: Paynetown SRA, Activity Center (next to Beach)

We'll be playing an assortment of documentaries about wetlands and wetland animals. Drop by and watch for as long as like... we'll have popcorn for you to munch on!



Indiana Master Naturalist

Presented in partnership with the Monroe County Parks Department and City of Bloomington Parks and Recreation

Details and registration information at:

<http://www.tinyurl.com/monroelake>

Thursday Evening Classes (6p-8p)

Feb. 6, Feb. 13, Feb. 20, Feb. 27, Mar. 6, Mar. 13, Mar. 27, Apr. 3

Sunday Afternoon Field Sessions (1p-5p)

Feb. 23, Apr. 13

All classes and field sessions are taught by local experts and natural resource professionals. Evening classes are at **Karst Farm Park** in Bloomington and field sessions take place at **Monroe Lake**.



Owl Prowl

Wednesday, February 12 at 6:00p

Registration REQUIRED by February 10; limited to 12 people. To register, email Jill Vance at jvance@dnr.IN.gov with your name, phone number, and the number of people in your group (or call the Paynetown Activity Center at 812-837-9967).

Program Location: Meet at the Hunter Check Station inside Fairfax SRA

Late winter is the peak of owl mating season – and the peak of owl calling season! Because they are searching for a mate, owls are more inclined to respond to calls at this time of year. We'll hike along and into the woods to see if we can attract an owl with its own call. Before the hike, there will be a brief discussion of owl mating habits. Dress warmly and bring a flashlight. **45 to 60 minutes**

Community Programs at the **Bedford Public Library**

**** Tuesday, February 18 ****

The Blind Burrower **from 3:30p to 5p**

Kids can drop by to learn about one of the oddest-looking animals in Indiana, the star-nosed mole – and make a simple craft to transform them into this unusual critter. **Recommended for ages 5 to 10.**

The Earliest Signs of Spring **at 6:00p**

Despairing of winter? Desperate for a hint that warmer weather is on the way? Nature starts paving the way for spring much earlier than you may think! Monroe Lake's naturalist will teach you how to look for the earliest signs that spring really **is** on the way. **45 minutes**



Community Program at the **Ellettsville Public Library**

**** Tuesday, February 25 ****

Animal Tracks at 6:30p

FREE but limited to 20 children. Advance registration requested to the Ellettsville Library Children's Department at 812-876-1272. Walk-in participation will be permitted IF open spots are still available.

Want to know what animals are living near you, and what they are doing? Look for their tracks! Kids will learn about the basics of studying animal tracks, enjoy an (indoor) tracking activity, and make an animal track craft to take home. **Recommended for ages 5 to 12. 45 minutes**



Lunch with Nature Series: Signs of Spring **Wednesday, February 26 at 11:00a**

FREE but registration is REQUIRED by February 24; limited to 12 people. Sign up by emailing ivance@dnr.IN.gov with your name, phone number, and number of people in your group (or call the Paynetown Activity Center at 812-837-9967).

Program Location: Paynetown SRA, Activity Center (next to Beach)

The second program in our Lunch with Nature Series! Bring a sack lunch to enjoy (indoors!) while the naturalist discusses the earliest signs of spring that begin appearing as early as January. After lunch, we'll take a short hike into the woods to look for some of these signs (so please bring appropriate outerwear!). **90 minutes**

Community Program at the **Bloomington Public Library**

**** Wednesday, February 26 ****

Animal Tracks at 6:30p

FREE but limited to 25 children. Advance registration requested to the Bloomington Library Children's Department at 812-349-3100. Walk-in participation will be permitted IF open spots are still available.

Want to know what animals are living near you, and what they are doing? Look for their tracks! Kids will learn about the basics of studying animal tracks, enjoy an (indoor) tracking activity, and make an animal track craft to take home. *Recommended for ages 5 to 12. 45 minutes*

A few of the programs coming this spring...

Woodcock Walk
Songbird Nesting Shelf Workshop
Trapper Education Class
Hunter Education Class
Wildflower Identification Workshop
Brown County Wildflower Foray
Wander in the Woods

*Watch the
March, April,
and May
Program
Schedules for
details!*

